

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please find below a listing of claims that will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

1. (currently amended) A method of facilitating a ~~transaction~~ technical due diligence process involving a target entity having software assets, comprising:
 - using a software analysis tool to extract information on the target entity's software assets; and
 - performing at least one subsequent step in the ~~transaction~~ technical due diligence process as a function of the extracted information.
2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information includes copyright information.
3. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information includes software owner information.
4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information includes third party software information.
5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information includes programming language information.
6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information includes a high-level quality assessment of the software assets.
7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein using a software analysis tool comprises:
 - providing software files to the software analysis tool; and

obtaining said information from the software analysis tool.

8. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the software files include source files.
9. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the software files include object files.
10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of entities having copyright in at least one of the software files.
11. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of entities and the proportion of the software files in which each of said entities has copyright.
12. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files in which no entity has copyright.
13. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files in which at least one entity has copyright.
14. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of creators having created at least one of the software files.
15. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of creators and the proportion of the software files created by each of said creators.

16. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files not specified as being created by any creator.
17. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files specified as being created by at least one creator.
18. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of third party software vendors whose products are needed by at least one of the software files.
19. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of third party software vendors whose operating systems are needed by at least one of the software files.
20. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of third party software vendors whose software tools are needed by at least one of the software files.
21. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of programming languages and the proportion of the software files programmed in each of said programming languages.
22. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of file formats and the proportion of the software files in each of said file formats.
23. (original) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein using a software analysis tool further comprises:
 running the software analysis tool on the software files.

24. (currently amended) A method ~~of performing technical due diligence on a target entity having software assets comprising: as claimed in claim 46,~~
wherein the third party using a software analysis tool to extract information on the target entity's software assets comprises:
 providing software files to [[a]] the software analysis tool; and
 the third party obtaining said information on the target entity's software assets from the software analysis tool.
25. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[24]] 46, wherein the information includes copyright information.
26. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[24]] 46, wherein the information includes software owner information.
27. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[24]] 46, wherein the information includes third party software information.
28. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[24]] 46, wherein the information includes programming language information.
29. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[24]] 46, wherein the information includes a high-level quality assessment of the software assets.
30. (original) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the software files include source files.
31. (original) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the software files include object files.
32. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[29]] 24, wherein the information includes a list of entities having copyright in at least one of the software files.

33. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[29]] 24, wherein the information includes a list of entities and the proportion of the software files in which each of said entities has copyright.
34. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[29]] 24, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files in which no entity has copyright.
35. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[29]] 24, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files in which at least one entity has copyright.
36. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[29]] 24, wherein the information includes a list of creators having created at least one of the software files.
37. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[29]] 24, wherein the information includes a list of creators and the proportion of the software files created by each of said creators.
38. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[29]] 24, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files not specified as being created by any creator.
39. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[29]] 24, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files specified as being created by at least one creator.
40. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [[29]] 24, wherein the information includes a list of third party software vendors whose products are needed by at least one of the software files.

41. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[29]]~~ 24, wherein the information includes a list of third party software vendors whose operating systems are needed by at least one of the software files.
42. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[29]]~~ 24, wherein the information includes a list of third party software vendors whose software tools are needed by at least one of the software files.
43. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[29]]~~ 24, wherein the information includes a list of programming languages and the proportion of the software files programmed in each of said programming languages.
44. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[29]]~~ 24, wherein the information includes a list of file formats and the proportion of the software files in each of said file formats.
45. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[29]]~~ 24, further comprising:
 - running the software analysis tool on the software files.
46. (currently amended) A method of facilitating a ~~transaction~~ technical due diligence process involving an expanding entity and a target entity having software assets, comprising:
 - a third party using a software analysis tool to extract information on the target entity's software assets;
 - the third party providing the extracted information to the expanding entity; and
 - the expanding entity performing at least one subsequent step in the ~~transaction~~ technical due diligence process as a function of the information provided by the third party.
47. (original) A method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the third party is contracted by the expanding entity.

48. (original) A method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the third party is contracted by the target entity.